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## Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 168 – Environment – Plastic Products – Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 7, 2024

Dear Chair Korman and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB168**, on behalf of Arundel Rivers Federation. Arundel Rivers is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation, and restoration of the South, West and Rhode Rivers with over 3,500 supporters. Our mission is to work with local communities to achieve clean, fishable, and swimmable waterways for present and future generations.

House Bill 168 will establish a minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage requirement for plastic beverage containers and certain food packaging containers incrementally between 2026 and 2035. This is a necessary step in bringing our state closer to addressing the growing plastic waste problem. According to the EPA, plastics are a rapidly growing segment of municipal solid waste. Particularly, plastic containers and packaging accounted for over 14.5 million tons in 2018. Unfortunately, the Association of Plastic Recyclers measured that only about 8.7% of plastic is being recycled.<sup>1</sup>

Arundel Rivers frequently hosts volunteer clean-up efforts around our local waterways and communities and we are supportive of any effort that will result in less plastic and microplastic from entering our local environment. Requiring the use of recycled content in these containers will instill a greater sense of trust and education within the public about the importance of recycling.

HB168 is a critical step towards a more sustainable, cleaner, and healthier future for Maryland and we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE REPORT on HB168**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elle Bassett".

Elle Bassett  
South, West and Rhode Riverkeeper  
Arundel Rivers Federation

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. Plastics: Material – Specific Data. <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/plastics-material-specific-data>